

THE CARGO COURIER

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.

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Combat controllers hold class in desert

By Chief Master Sgt. Bill Smith
123rd Special Tactics Flight

For a combat controller, Egypt is pretty close to paradise. Yes, the desert can be unbearably hot, dry and desolate. But it's also an ideal training environment for special tactics.

"The whole country is a drop zone," said Staff Sgt. Bill Sprake, a KyANG combat controller, immediately after hitting the ground at Gebel Hamza Drop Zone in the desert southeast of Cairo.

Staff Sgt. Isaac Guerrero agreed.

"There are no trees, bodies of water or buildings that would interfere with any jump operations," he said.

Sprake, who had just performed a static-line parachute jump after a 14-hour flight from the United States, and Guerrero were joined in Egypt by the Kentucky Air Guard's Capt. Jeremy Shoop and Tech. Sgt. Jon Rosa for Operation Iron Cobra '99.

The annual Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise is designed to familiarize Egyptian paratroopers with U.S. airborne operations and procedures.

The 123rd Special Tactics Flight's combat controllers were deployed with 12 soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky., from Oct. 30 to Nov. 18.

"We taught the Egyptians how to set up and operate a drop zone at EnShas Air Base, their basic parachuting school," Rosa said. "This was the Egyptian equivalent of Fort Benning, Ga."

C-141s assigned to the 62nd Airlift Wing provided the airlift necessary to acquaint the Egyptians with parachuting, American-style.

"Both the Army and Air Force provided Airborne training to the Egyptians," Sprake said. "Collectively we taught drop zone markings and control, jumpmaster procedures, actions in the aircraft and post-jump tactical assembly procedures."

Personnel from the 123rd STF were assigned to CENTAF but were operationally controlled by U.S. Special Operations Command Central while in country.

"We worked with the U.S. Embassy, Cairo, to send and receive daily situation reports to the task force that was deployed in Qatar," said Shoop, who is commander of the 123rd STF.



Tech. Sgt. Jon Rosa/KyANG

Staff Sgt. Bill Sprake of the 123rd Special Tactics Flight clears a U.S. C-141 to drop Egyptian paratroopers at Alawaceq Drop Zone.

"This way we were kept in daily contact with all U.S. Special Operations in the region, giving us real-time changes in tasking and missions."

The Egyptian army recently constructed a wind tunnel at EnShas

Please see DESERT, Page 4

Past dedication eases ORI challenge but we must remain prepared

T

here is an old saying that goes something like this: "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

It is hard to believe that it's been three years since our last Operational Readiness Inspection, and a lot of things have changed in that three years.

But what has stayed the same is our requirement to maintain combat readiness and demonstrate that readiness on another ORI.

Because of this requirement, the Air Mobility Command's Inspector General has scheduled us for an ORI in November 2000.

The good news is that because of all of the deployments we have supported during the past three years, the IG has given us credit for the deployment portion of the ORI.

This means we will not have to demonstrate our ability to pack up and mobilize all of our equipment and personnel as we have done in the past.

They gave us credit because we constantly demonstrate our ability to deploy every time we go on a contingency operation.

We try to do things right everyday.

The IG realizes that, and that is why they feel no need to inspect our ability to deploy.

They also have given us credit for the employment phase of the ORI. Because of our support of contingency operations, they know that we can fly and fix aircraft with the best of them, and they feel no need to inspect us on that part of our mission.

What they want to see is our ATSO —



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

Ability to Survive and Operate — and mission support capabilities.

Since we do not have the ability to accomplish a lot of this in our day-to-day missions, the inspectors want to examine our chemical warfare defense, force protection and recovery operations, as well as our ability to generate missions in a chemical environment.

Our last ORI deployed more than 800 people, but because of the limited scope of this one, I anticipate only around 400 people being involved this time. The majority of

those folks will come from Security Forces, Civil Engineering, Services and our command and control structure. Ops and Logistics will participate in a limited way.

The good news is that because of the hard work of our Readiness Flight, we are in pretty good shape as far as our knowledge of these procedures is concerned.

What we must do now is hone these skills and put together the command and control network necessary to do well on this inspection.

We will take this ORI in conjunction with the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, Ohio. They are our Air Expeditionary Force partners, and it only makes sense that if we deploy with them on real world missions, then we should take our inspections with them.

It will require a lot of coordination with those guys, and we are in the process of developing a schedule of mini-deployments to field training sites in order to iron out a lot of bugs in this coordination.

We will try to give everyone concerned as much notice as possible so that you can work this preparation into your schedule.

I find it ironic to announce this ORI while we have 300 folks deployed to Germany for Operation Joint Forge, doing the real work of our Air Force. But as the old saying goes, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

—Thanks Loads,

Michael L. Harden

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 23.

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Maj. Connie Carillo/KyANG

Making strides

Kentucky Air Guard members joined forces recently at Seneca Park to help raise money for breast cancer research.

The volunteers participated in the 'Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk,' which was sponsored by the American Cancer Society and raised more than \$200,000 for research.

'Breast cancer affects everyone,' said Tech. Sgt. Kathryn Copperwaite of the 123rd Medical Squadron. 'I don't think there's anybody who doesn't know someone who's had it.'

Lt. Gen. Davis to speak at association conference

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, will be the featured speaker Feb. 20 during the business session of the National Guard Association of Kentucky's annual conference.

Davis, who became the nation's first black Air Guard general officer, assumed the top job in August after serving as the bureau's vice chief for more than two years.

The career aviator will be joined at the session by Kentucky's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. John R. "Russ" Groves, who will deliver the annual State of the Guard address.

Conference activities begin Feb. 19 at Louisville's Galt House East with the opening of hospitality suites and an exhibitors' reception.

While the business session will be the highlight of the next day's activities, a variety of events have been planned throughout the morning for guard members' spouses, including a tour of Louisville Stoneware.

The conference wraps up that evening with a formal military banquet and a swing dance.

Advance registration is \$35 per person or \$65 per couple. The cost after Feb. 12 will be \$50 and \$90, respectively.

For more information, contact the National Guard Association of Kentucky at (800) 962-0150. ☎

Farewell and thank you

Maj. Gen. Groves received notification Dec. 14 that I have been selected as the ANG Assistant to the Director, Air National Guard, effective Feb. 1.

Obviously, I am excited about the assignment and am honored to have been chosen.

I leave as your Assistant Adjutant General for Air with mixed feelings. This post has been the most challenging in my career, but without a doubt it also has been the most rewarding.

You, the men and women of the Kentucky Air Guard, have repeatedly made me proud of the job you do and the pride you exemplify.

Thanks to all of you for helping me to be successful in mine.

It is with your support and help that I was able to be selected for this new challenge.

I am grateful for all you do and all you have done.

Best wishes,

Verna D. Fairchild

Verna D. Fairchild

Do you have The Right Stuff?

KyANG Officer Board to screen candidates next month

By Capt. Beth Leistensnider
Wing Social Actions Officer

An Officer Selection Validation Board is tentatively scheduled to meet during the March UTA, but our applicant pool is currently very small.

If you have a college degree and you've ever considered a career move to the officer ranks, you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

The Kentucky Air National Guard wants to ensure that all our members have an equal opportunity to apply for vacant positions.

In order to establish a standardized selection process, the wing commander has published a policy letter for officer selections.

The policy sets forth a recommended process for selecting qualified individuals.

Unit commanders will still maintain overall responsibility for the manning of their sections and are given freedom to modify the procedure to meet their units' individual needs.

The first step in applying for a position is to take the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test, which is administered by the Military Personnel Flight once each quarter.

After obtaining the results of the AFOQT,

an applicant needs to submit his or her scores to the personnel flight along with college transcripts, a resumé and a letter stating his or her desire to become an officer.

The Officer Selection Validation Board meets twice a year to interview and select qualified candidates for possible commissioning.

Acceptance by the Validation Board does not guarantee an officer position.

It simply means that the preliminary qualifications have been met and the individual may then compete with other qualified applicants for vacant officer positions as they occur.

Projected non-rated officer vacancies are identified by the personnel flight, and if those positions do not have specific prerequisites, the vacancies will be advertised in the Wing Bulletin and on the LAN.

Positions requiring specific skills—for example, doctors, attorneys and engineers—will generally be filled with available resources, such as Palace Chase and Palace Front sources from active duty units.

The policy states that non-rated vacancies should be advertised for at least 30 days and a minimum of one drill.

If the applicant pool is inadequate, the advertisement will be extended.

The selections for rated officer positions are handled slightly differently. More information on those opportunities can be obtained from Chief Master Sgt. Jay Lowe in the personnel flight.

After the unit commander determines that the applicant pool is adequate, he or she will appoint a selection board consisting of at least three members.

The selection board will conduct interviews and make a recommendation to the unit commander.

The individual selected must be approved by the unit commander, group commander and finally the wing commander.

Once selected for a specific vacancy, the individual will undergo a commissioning physical and be screened for a security clearance.

When all the above steps have been accomplished, the commissioning package will be forwarded to ANGRC Personnel Office for approval before the individual is scheduled to attend the Academy of Military Science.

If you would like to take the AFOQT or need additional information, contact Chief Lowe at extension 4622. ☎

Desert classroom brings U.S. training to Egyptians

Continued from Page 1

Air Base for use by its national parachute demonstration team.

KyANG combat controllers were invited to become the first Americans to fly in the freefall tunnel, which generated a lot of camaraderie with their Egyptian hosts.

"I had not been in a wind tunnel since Freefall School," Shoop said. "This facility is very similar to the one I trained in at Fort Bragg; however there is no roof and you're up about 50 feet.

"Needless to say, extreme caution was taken."

Also demonstrated for the Americans was a motorized paraglider —

essentially a parachute with a 250cc 2-cylinder engine in a 20-kilogram pack worn on the parachutist's back. The device is used for long-range reconnaissance of the battlefield.

All of the training and classes were soon put to the test as 1,994 Egyptian paratroopers filled the skies of nearby Cairo.

Special Tactics troops controlled drop zones at Al Alawaceq and were responsible for radio communications and weather observation for the mass jump.

Some of the Egyptians were parachuting for the first time, so winds were a critical factor in their safety.

"Because of the new parachutists' inexperience and slow reaction time, the students must jump from a minimum of

1,250 feet, and winds are limited to 13 knots for static-line operations," Guerrero said. "We witnessed small desert tornadoes called habeebs in the vicinity of the drop zone, which could cause injuries to the jumpers, but they did not stop any drops."

No serious injuries occurred during the exercise, as safety was paramount.

The last jump was a combined American and Egyptian operation, with the 123rd STF and the 5th SFG conducting a High-Altitude Low-Opening jump with the Egyptian Parachute Demonstration Team.

It provided a unique opportunity to participate in a military parachute

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Staff Sgt. Isaac Guerrero/KyANG



Staff Sgt. Isaac Guerrero/KyANG



Tech. Sgt. Jon Rosa/KyANG

ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Bill Sprake and Tech Sgt. Jon Rosa control a desert drop zone for Egyptian parachute operations.

LEFT: Rosa pins a set of U.S. wings on one of his Egyptian comrades at the conclusion of training. In exchange, the sergeant received an Egyptian Airborne insignia.

BOTTOM LEFT: Staff Sgt. Issac Guerrero demonstrates U.S. drop zone markings for the Egyptian students. They also received instruction on jumpmaster procedures before participating in a joint insertion.

Egypt

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jump with a foreign army and earn the parachute wings of the elite Egyptian Airborne.

On the drop zone were Maj. Gen. Mohammed Felefel, commander of the Egyptian Airborne troops; and Brig. Gen. Ahmed Nasr, Chief of Staff for the Egyptian Airborne.

The jump went off without a hitch, and the Egyptians were impressed with how accurate the Americans' landings were.

"A 'wing exchange' followed with Special Tactics troops pinning American jump wings



Tech. Sgt. Jon Rosa/KyANG

ABOVE: Egyptian troops hover in the blast from a vertical wind tunnel.

BELOW: Kentucky combat controllers, including Rosa and Capt. Jeremy Shoop, were the first Americans to train in the wind tunnel.



Staff Sgt. Isaac Guerrero/KyANG

on the Egyptian paratroopers and the Egyptians awarding their gold-winged insignia and certificates to the Americans.

"This was the most memorable jump of my career," Rosa said. "As I exited the aircraft and entered the slipstream, I could see the Pyramids and the Sphinx in the distance — it was surreal."

Rosa also noted the value of the experience.

"The Egyptian Airborne troops were highly professional, and we accomplished a lot of training."

"The Airborne Training Brigade continues to upgrade their equipment as they maintain readiness in a very turbulent area of the world."

KyANG turns 52 this month

By Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin
123rd Airlift Wing Historian

Traditionally, February has been one of our slower months for operations, but it is significant for another reason — it's the Kentucky Air Guard's birth month.

On Feb. 16, 1947, our unit came into existence, and during its 52 years, we've been bounced around from Fort Knox to Bowman Field and various locations all over the world before establishing our current location at Louisville International Airport.

A look back at some of the events that have marked the passage of 52 Februaries:

•Feb. 7, 1976 — The first RF-4C Phantom II jet aircraft arrives on base, where it remains until January 1989.

•Feb. 1, 1981 — Col. Carl D. Black becomes wing commander; one week later, Stewart Byrne becomes deputy commander for operations.

•Feb. 20, 1984 — One of the wing's most colorful officers, William P. Gast passes away. An extremely popular officer with the troops, Gast's humor knew no bounds. Many times while on deployments, Gast could be seen conversing with enlisted personnel, asking them about their concerns and gripes.

He was "a real airman's general" as one troop put it. Always quick with a joke and a word of encouragement, Gast (who showed up at a 1970s wing formation dressed in a World War I uniform, complete with leggings and riding crop) entered

the service as a private during World War II, finally rising to brigadier general and finishing his career as chief of staff. Many on base still recall Gen. Gast with nothing but fond memories. Thanks, general, for your service with us.

•Feb. 25, 1985 — The 123rd earns its fifth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

•Feb. 6-12, 1986 — The Wing receives an "excellent" rating on an MEI from the 12th Air Force IG Team — it's second such accomplishment.

•Feb. 9, 1991 — The 123rd learns that it will soon convert from the C-130 B to H-model aircraft — the second conversion for the unit in two years.

•February 1993 — The 123rd begins the first of many missions to Bosnia, which continue to this day.

•Feb. 11, 1994 — Our very own Lt. Col. Rick Ash assumes command of the 38th Airlift Squadron (Delta Squadron), which is responsible for airlift missions to Bosnia.

As you can see, our so-called "off-month" has really been quite active.

Trivia Question: Who is the only officer in our nation's history to have held our highest military rank and have been awarded our highest military honor (that is, a five-star general with a Medal of Honor)?

Answer: With his elaborate headgear, sunglasses and corn cob pipe, he looked like a Hollywood actor portraying field marshal, but General of the Army Douglas MacArthur was, indeed, a real hero, earning the prestigious award for his defense of the Philippines during World War II.

Volunteers sought to help organize Bean Soup Feast

The KyANG First Sergeants' Council is seeking volunteers to help organize the wing's annual Bean Soup Feast.

Assistance for the charity fundraising event is needed from March 22-26, said Master Sgt. Tim Atwell.

Tickets for the feast, which is scheduled for March 25 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., may be purchased from any first sergeant.

The cost is \$5 for adults or \$2.50 for children under the age of 12 and includes a meal of bean soup, vegetable soup, corn bread, coleslaw and potato salad.

An open house also will give family and friends an opportunity to learn more about the Kentucky Air Guard.

For more information, call Atwell at 364-9662. ☎

Weather Flight sponsors conference

The 165th Weather Flight is sponsoring a conference May 4-8 for military weather forecasters from across the United States.

More than 150 soldiers and airmen are expected to attend the event, which will be held at the Executive West Hotel.

Combat Controllers featured in calendar

The Air Guard's 1999 promotional calendar features photos of several enlisted members performing their duties — including two Kentucky combat controllers.

Tech. Sgt. Todd Swenson and Staff Sgt. Mike Moore of the 123rd Special Tactics Flight are shown parachuting through the center of the photo montage for January.



Ready to Roll

The Kentucky Air Guard's F-51 Mustangs served the unit well throughout the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Photo courtesy Don Belton

Hemp-based items banned

By Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Stanley
Air Force Press News

WASHINGTON — In the mid-1980s, urinalysis testing became an effective weapon in the Air Force war against drugs. Now, the program that has produced a healthy force of drug-free professionals may be compromised by something actually being touted as a beneficial dietary supplement.

It's called hemp seed oil.

But some health-conscious Air Force body builders and other hemp seed oil consumers will now have to find alternatives.

The Air Force has banned the use of hemp seed oil products because they contain tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive ingredient of the marijuana plant.

In urinalysis testing, no distinction can be made between a positive test because of hemp oil ingestion and one caused by the illegal use of marijuana.

Such test results pose a real potential to ruin careers.

Recent scientific studies at several private research firms and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology show the ingestion of products made with hemp seed oil nearly always produce positive urinalysis tests.

Most widely available over-the-counter dietary supplements and a host of other products containing hemp seed and hemp seed oil contain some level of THC.

Although tests show the level of THC found in the commercial products is not believed to be significant enough to produce a psychoactive reaction in the body, the levels are indeed high enough to produce positive urinalysis results.

"In the interest of military readiness and good order and discipline, active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard members are

now prohibited from consuming any products containing hemp seed oil," said Lt. Col. Greg Girard of the Air Force judge advocate general's office in the Pentagon.

Recently, a number of new hemp products have appeared on the shelves of many health food stores accompanied by claims they contain high concentrations of essential amino acids and fatty acids.

Girard was quick to add that the Air Force is not challenging such claims but rather pointing out that their use by airmen "effectively interferes" with the Air Force's ability to maintain a drug-free force.

"We don't want people testing positive and jeopardizing their careers because they swallowed something they may have thought was healthy and good for them," said Lt. Col. Peter Durand of the Air Force Surgeon General's Office.

As program manager for the Air Force drug abuse prevention and treatment program, Durand added that without the ban on hemp products, drug users could hide their crimes simply by claiming they ingested a hemp-based dietary supplement.

Although it is illegal to grow marijuana in the United States, it is perfectly legal to import hemp products into the country. Hemp oil is most often used as a salad dressing or as a dietary supplement in capsule form.

It can also be found in many consumer items ranging from cosmetics and soaps to snack bars and other foods. There is even a tofu substitute made with hemp oil.

"Service members need not be concerned that they are unwittingly ingesting hemp products in foods and drinks," Durand said, "because most of these products are still expressly marketed and sold in health food stores."

Per diem changes affect travel voucher reimbursements

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Changes to per diem rates for travel in the continental United States affect how travelers must file for reimbursement of charges.

As of Jan. 1, lodging taxes are a separately reimbursable travel expense from lodging rates.

The change only applies to CONUS, which includes the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

Room taxes will only be reimbursed if they are listed separately as a "reimbursable expense" item on the travel voucher.

Travelers choosing lodging with a higher cost than the local per diem ceiling must pay for the excess lodging cost as well as the tax on the excess cost out of pocket.

Previously, local taxes were not always reimbursed because some hotels set their room rates at the precise amount the government will pay for a night's lodging.

In such instances, the government did not reimburse the local taxes tacked on at check out.

In some locales, taxes run as high as 13 percent for hotel rooms.

Ryan calls for extra \$30 billion to sustain readiness

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force chief of staff told members of a key congressional committee last month that the service needs an additional \$5 billion annually for the next six years to sustain an effective level of readiness.

Gen. Michael E. Ryan told the House

Armed Services Committee on Jan. 20 that the \$30 billion increase to what President Clinton has already agreed to will stabilize the force by addressing the needs of the people.

Increased pay, a revamped retirement system and a reduction in the frantic pace of operations are paramount to retention, he said.

Ryan and the rest of the service chiefs

agreed that while monetary incentives alone won't fix the problem, they are a major step in the right direction.

In summation, Ryan told the committee the budget increase is needed because readiness is fragile and the indicators are not good.

He cited stateside readiness, down 28

See RYAN, Page 8

KyANG Promotions & Retirements



The following service members have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the United States Air Force:

TO AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)

•Amy Busch,
123rd Mission Support Flt.

TO SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

•Brandy Allen,
205th Combat Communications Sq.
•Jeffrey Dickson,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

TO STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

•David Curl,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
•Tara McFerrin,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•Jeffrey Noel,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
•Melanie Owens,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
•Terry Pollard,
165th Weather Flt.
•Darryl Wilkerson,
123rd Logistics Sq.

TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

•Morgan Bramer,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
•Michael Dionne,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

•Rollie Hodges,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•Mark Jones,
123rd Civil Engineers Sq.
•Kurt Tate,
123rd Mission Support Flt.

TO MASTER SERGEANT (E-6)

•Timothy Dougherty,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•Kristine Evans,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•Leonard Johnson Jr.,
123rd Logistics Sq.
•Billie Schanen,
123rd Medical Sq.

TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)

•Ralph Bronger III,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

The following service members have retired from the Kentucky Air National Guard and as active reservists of the United States Air Force:

•Tech. Sgt. Ralph Davies,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
•Tech. Sgt. Eric Hertog,
123rd Airlift Wing
•Master Sgt. Dominic Palummo,
123rd Services Flt.
•Master Sgt. Floyd Tuttle,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
•Staff Sgt. Wyatt Waxler,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

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Ryan: Air Force's readiness at risk

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percent from last year, as the largest indicator.

Ryan said the Air Force front-loads its overseas and forward deploying bases so they have high readiness, but as a result readiness suffers at home.

The committee brought up added bonuses for pilot retention, but Ryan said, "I am not sure bonuses are the answer; it's all the other intangibles."

In addition to monetary incentives for personnel, the chief said the beefed-up budget would be used to improve and replace an aging aircraft fleet and put predictability into a

military lifestyle that performs in an unstable world.

"They want to know how long they'll be gone and when they'll be coming home," Ryan said. "If the family is taken care of, they'll do anything you ask of them," he added in reference to a force that has performed nearly three times more combat, enforcement and humanitarian operations in the past 10 years than were accomplished in the previous four decades.

The Air Force is already striving to address these issues, Ryan said, with the implementation of its Expeditionary Aerospace Forces concept.